

Claims:

1. A light emitting device comprising:

a capacitive light emitting element for emitting light by application of a DC forward voltage; and

5 a circuit configured to feed a reverse current to a defective part with a low-resistance of the light emitting element, only by discharging a residual electric charge in the light emitting element after stopping the application of the DC forward voltage.

10

2. The light emitting device as defined in claim 1, wherein the circuit connects respective electrodes of the light emitting element with the earth after stopping the application of the DC forward voltage, said electrodes being applied with
15 the DC forward voltage.

3. The light emitting device as defined in claim 2, wherein the light emitting element is an organic EL (electro luminescence) element.

20

4. The light emitting device as defined in claim 3, wherein the circuit connects two electrodes of the organic EL element with the earth whenever the application of the DC forward voltage to the organic EL element stops.

25

5. The light emitting device as defined in claim 3, wherein the circuit connects two electrodes of the organic EL element with the earth according to a signal for controlling the application of the DC forward voltage to the organic EL element.

30

6. The light emitting device as defined in claim 3, wherein the circuit connects both electrodes of the organic EL element

with the earth according to a signal different from a signal for controlling the application of the DC forward voltage to the organic EL element.

5 7. The light emitting device as defined in claim 3, wherein the circuit connects both electrodes of the organic EL element with the earth while the DC forward voltage is not applied to the organic EL element.

10 8. The light emitting device as defined in claim 3, wherein the circuit is a push-pull circuit including a first switching element and second switching element that are cascaded, a current feeding circuit is connected with an end of the push-pull circuit, said current feeding circuit feeding a
15 current to the organic EL element, and an anode of the organic EL element is connected with a connecting point of the first switching element and the second switching element.

9. The light emitting device as defined in claim 8, wherein
20 a cathode of the organic EL element and another end of the push-pull circuit are connected with the earth, and the push-pull circuit connects the anode and cathode of the organic EL element with the earth by turning on a switching element between a connecting point and the earth.

25 10. The light emitting device as defined in claim 9, wherein a current for lighting the organic EL element is fed from the current feeding circuit to the organic EL element through the first switching element when the first switching element is
30 turned on and the second switching element is turned off, and subsequently the residual charge in the organic EL element is discharged through the second switching element when the first

switching element is turned off and the second switching element is turned on.

11. The light emitting device as defined in claim 8, wherein
5 the current feeding circuit includes a capacitive element for accumulating an electric charge, and a lighting current is fed to the organic EL element through the first switching element from the capacitive element of the current feeding circuit when the first switching element is turned on and the second
10 switching element is turned off.

12. The light emitting device as defined in claim 11, wherein the organic EL element performs static lighting by charging the capacitive element of the current feeding circuit with the
15 electric charge when the first switching element is turned off.

13. A light emitting device comprising:

a push-pull circuit including a first switching element and a second switching element that are cascaded;

20 an organic EL element having an anode connected with a connecting point of the first switching element and the second switching element; and

a current feeding circuit connected with an end of the push-pull circuit and configured to feed a current to the
25 organic EL element.

14. The light emitting device as defined in claim 13, wherein a cathode of the organic EL element and another end of the push-pull circuit are connected with the earth, and

30 the push-pull circuit connects the anode and cathode of the organic EL element with the earth by turning on a switching element between a connecting point and the earth.

15. The light emitting device as defined in claim 14, wherein
a current for lighting the organic EL element is fed from the
current feeding circuit to the organic EL element through the
5 first switching element when the first switching element is
turned on and the second switching element is turned off, and
subsequently the residual charge in the organic EL element is
discharged through the second switching element when the first
switching element is turned off and the second switching element
10 is turned on.

16. The light emitting device as defined in claim 13, wherein
the current feeding circuit includes a capacitive element for
accumulating an electric charge, and a lighting current is fed
15 to the organic EL element through the first switching element
from the capacitive element of the current feeding circuit when
the first switching element is turned on and the second
switching element is turned off.

20 17. The light emitting device as defined in claim 16, wherein
the organic EL element performs static lighting by charging the
capacitive element of the current feeding circuit with the
electric charge when the first switching element is turned off.